

Serial No.: 10/663,345  
Filing Date: September 15, 2003

Examiner: K.K. Deshpande  
Art Unit: 3623

### REMARKS

The application as filed contained 54 claims, including 7 independent claims.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 10-13, 17-19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 31, 32, 36-39, 41-44, 46, 48, 51, 53 and 54 have been cancelled in order to reduce the number of the independent claims to 5 and the total number of claims to 25.

Applicants have amended claim 1 by incorporating the features recited in claim 2. Similar amendments were made to other independent claims 20, 27, 45 and 52.

Applicants have also amended claims 4, 9, 15, 16, 20, 22, 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 45, 47 and 50 by incorporating the features recited in claims 5 and 6, 10-13, 18 and 19, 17, 21, 23, 26, 28, 31 and 32, 36-39, 41-44, 46, 48, and 51, respectively.

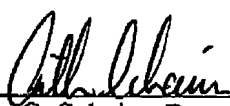
The dependency of claims 3, 15, 16, 29, 33 and 49 have been amended in view of the above amendments.

Claims 7 and 33 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

No new matter has been introduced into the application by the above amendments.

Early favorable consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Arthur G. Schaier, Reg. 37,715  
Carmody & Torrance LLP  
50 Leavenworth Street  
P.O. Box 1110  
Waterbury, CT 06721-1110  
Direct Telephone: (203) 575-2629  
Facsimile: (203) 575-2600